AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

PERSONAL AND GOVERNMENT TOPICS. JUDGE BLATCHFORD'S ACCEPTANCE—AN IMPORTANT REPUBLICAN CAUCUS-THE SPEAKER ALMOST

DEFIED-SOLDIERS' HOME MANAGEMENT. The President has been informed of Judge Blatchford's acceptance of the Associate Justiceship of the Supreme Court. An important caucus of Republican members of Congress was held last evening. There was much confusion in the House yesterday, Mr Money, of Mississippi, disputing and almost defying the rulings of the Speaker. Irregularities in the management of the Soldiers' Home, near Washington, have, it is said, been discovered.

JUDGE BLATCHFORD ACCEPTS. WASHINGTON, March 15.—The President has been informed by Judge Blatchford, of New-York, of his acceptance of the office of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

DISCUSSING PARTY MEASURES.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)
WASHINGTON, March 15.—Altogether the most important political event of the session was the Republican caucus of members of the House of Representatives to-night. It was time that the caucus was held, as Mr. Robesen explained this evening when he took the chair to preside. A divided party cannot expect to accomplish any results. Public measures of importance were pressing upon the attention of the country and of the party, and action could no longer be evaded. He asked the pleasure of the caucus. Mr. White, of Kentucky, opened the discussion by extolling the bill introduced in the Senate by Senator Logan to provide that the proceeds arising from the tax on whiskey and tobacco should be used for the education of the people. Mr. White thought that this was an excellent measure and should receive a caucus approval. Mr. Cannon suggested that this measure was not before the House, and it was hardly worth while to talk about it in the caucus to-night. Mr. Hiscock suggested that the Caucus Committee probably had some purpose in calling the Republicans together, and that it would be well for some member of that committee to indicate what the purose was. Mr. Belford, of Colorado, took the floor and advocated the report of the Committee on Rules, advising changes in the rules. Mr. Shallenberger, of Pennsylvania, then offered a resolution that it is the sense of that there should be no reduction of the tax on whiskey and tobacco during this session, and he advocated this resolution in a short speech. Mr. Horr, of Michigan, impressed upon the caucus the necessity of taking some measures to advance the public business. Mr. Harris, of Massachusetts, contended that it was better for the Republicans not to try to amend the rules for the present, and thought that the discussion of the proposed reduction of the tax on whiskey and tobacco was premature,

Mr. Dunnell then made a speech in favor of Shallenberger's resolution declaring that it is a matter of very great importance that the caucus should determine whether or not it would sustain the Ways and Means Committee in its proposition to take off taxes which yield a revenue of \$67,000,000, and he thought that the members of that committee should have the judgment of the caucus as to whether it should be pressed as a party measure. This speech brought Judge Kelley to his feet. He said that "our receipts from internal revenues were \$360,000,000, and that our surplus revenue amounted to \$100,000,000, and for the next year would be \$120,000,000. There must be either a reduction of the tax or some means devised to spend the money, the debt being provided for as it is. If the Republican party said It should go on and make large appropriations to create a new Navy, for internal improvements, or for other purposes, the cry of extravagance and jobbery would be raised and we shall suffer at the next election." He favored taking the tax off tobacco and whiskey.

Mr. Hiscock again suggested that it would be well for the caucus to determine whether the Repub-Heans should proceed at once with the proposed ent to the rules, and offered a resolution to test the sense of the caucus in regard to it. This resolution was regarded as pending and was not pressed to a vote. Mr. Townsend, of Ohio, proposed a reduction of the tax on tobacco and whiskey. Mr. Cannon, of Illinois, then made a spirited speech in favor of the proposition that it is of the highest importance for the Republicans to come together on some policy, and favored the resolution proposed by Mr. Shallenberger. He declared that there was no demand by the people for the removal of the tax on whiskey and tobacco, while it was continued on articles of greater necessity. He thought that if the Republican party should approve the proposed reduction, it would be the deathblow to the Republican prospects in the Western States. Mr. Davis, of Illinois, moved to lay aside the tariff resolution and agree to proceed with the consideration of other important measures. He deplored the lack of leadership in the Republican party, and thought that this was

not a good time to discuss the resolution. Mr. Reed then called attention to his report on rules. He said that he had expected to bring it up next Thursday, but had yielded to the appeals of the friends of the Tariff Commission bill and decided not to do so. He made a strong speech against removing the tax from tobacco and whiskey. He said that no committee of the House could afford to run counter to the average judgment of the majority which it represented. This thing ought to be settled now. Again and again he insisted that the Committee on Ways and Means had better heed the wishes and average

judgment of the Republican party. Mr. Kasson made a speech in which he declared that Western sentiment is in favor of retaining the tax on whiskey and tobacco, and that to repeal it would be a blow from which the Republican party would not recover. The thorough agitation of the question now was disturbing business and causing general depression in the West. Mr. Bayne offered a resolution that it is not wise to reduce the internal taxes except on matches, bank circulation and deposits and proprietary medicines. He thought this Congress could not afford to adjourn without taking off these taxes. He favored a tariff revision and thought that some articles should be placed on the free list and the duty on others be reduced. Mr. Lord, of Michigan, declared that there was no demand in that State for the repeal of the Mr. Bayne tax on tobacco and whiskey. then withdrew his resolution and a vote was about to be taken on the Shallenberger resolution, when Judge Kelley took the floor. He said that he hoped no formal vote would be taken. He acquiesced heartily in what appeared to be the prevailing sense of the caucus, and he was willing to abide by it. In deference to his desires that no vote should be taken which would be considered in the nature of instructions to the Committee on Ways and Means, the caucus was satisfied with the unanimous declaration through its chairman that the resolution would be considered as the sense of the caucus without a formal vote. Mr. Kelley's speech elicited warm applause and he received hearty congratulations when he sat

Mr. Shallenberger then withdrew his resolution, and Mr. Reed asked if anybody objected to the pro posed amendments to the rules. Mr. Marsh, of Illinois, asked him to explain the reasons in their favor and the disadvantages which they were expected to overcome. This Mr. Reed did in a capital speech. Mr. Hiscock then asked him when he proposed to bring up the amendments to the rules, and Mr. Reed explained that he would not do so until the Ways and Means Committee had made an effort to reach the consideration of the Tariff Commission bill. In

substance it was then agreed by the caucus, without a formal resolution, that the majority should proceed under the present rules and attempt to secure consideration of the Tariff Commission bill; that if after two or three days it should be found impracticable to reach the bill under the present rules, then the Republicans should at once take up the proposed amendments and as a party press their consideration to the last. It was determined, however, that this should not be done until a sufficient effort to reach the Tariff Commission bill had been made to attract the attention of the country to show that its consideration under the present rules cannot be had. It was further agreed that the Republican members from each State should consult with the Republican Senators from that State, and within the next tend days should name the members of the Congressional Republican Committee.

The Tobacco Convention, composed of representatives of the trade from all parts of the country, was in session during the day and evening discussing just how little reduction of the tax on tobacco it would be satisfied with. Late in the evening Congressman Jorgensen carried news to the convention that the Republican caucus had decided against any reduction of the tobacco and whiskey tax. This caused great excitement and division of sentiment among the delegates. One party, headed by Henry W. Eisenger, of Louisville, Ky., declared that it was hopeless, and that the wisest course for the trade was to accept the decision of the Republican caucus as final.

CONFUSION IN THE HOUSE.

IBY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, March 15 .- The indulgent disposition of Speaker Keifer has impelled him to allow members a latitude in debate which has been grossly abused by some members of the House and has led to frequent confusion and disorder in the proceedings. The Speaker evidently realized this to-day, when, after pounding his desk with the gavel for some time, in a vain attempt to silence Mr. Money, of Mississippi, who persisted in making a speech out of order, he said with some asperity that hereafter when members tried to impose on the Chair and the House in defiance of the rules and efforts to preserve order, the Chair would at least take pains to reprimand them.

Mr. Money took his seat, but the word "reprimand" rankled in his bosom. He went to the official reporter and had the Speaker's remarks written out and then he took counsel with ex-Speaker Randall' and others of his party friends, and they encouraged him to "rise to a question of privilege." The Mississippi statesman proceeded with his remarks until the Speaker stopped him, and said that he must confine himself to an explanation and vindication of his own course, and that reflections on the Chair would not be permitted. This roused Mr. Money, who declared that he would not quietly submit to the reprimand of the Speaker, which he considered as "outrageous." Ories of "Order," "Order," and "Take down the words," were heard from the Republican side, while the Democrats applauded their champion. Half the members were on their feet and all was confu-

The Speaker emphatically reiterated his declaration that he should not hesitate to reprimand any member who might persist in violating the rules of the House, after being called to order. Messrs, Kenna, McLane and jothers demanded ito know if the Speaker held that he had a right to "reprimand" any member without an order of the House, and again the Speaker reiterated that he had a right to and would do so. Mr. Money was at last allowed to finish his remarks, the point of which was that as the resolution upon which he had endeavored to speak was one designed largely to benefit suffering people in his own district, it was an outrage not to allow him to make a speech in favor of it, in order that his constituents might know he was not unmindful of their interests. After much more confusion and bandying of words between the Speaker and several Democratic members, the House adjourned with everybody in ill-humor.

The Speaker did not seem inclined to yield an inch of the position he assumed or ap-peared to assume—that he has the right formally to reprimand a member for breach of parliamentry decorum. His friends say that he did not use the word "reprimand" in the sense of executing judgment for a violation of the privileges of the House and that he will so explain. On the other hand the Democrats insist that he did use and mean to use the word "reprimand" in its technical sense, and they declare that they will in every possible way resent this arbitrary and unlawful assumption of authority. The indications now are that troubles will thicken about the Speaker unless he shall take occasion to disavow the intention ascribed to him by Democrats, for they have the power to make his future as a presiding officer a very stormy one. Conservative and thoughtful men in the House, of both parties, while they regret the affair of to-day, say that if it shall result in putting a stop to the scenes of confusion and disorder which have so often prevailed at this session, it will be fully worth the price paid for it.

While it is generally believed by Republicans that Mr. Randall was the moving spirit behind the scene of to-day, he carefully avoided any personal participation in it and was not in his seat while it was in progress. imand" in its technical sense, and they declare

vas in progress.

MR. RICE ON THE CHINESE BILL. IRT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 15 .- The Chinese bill has been so thoroughly discussed in the Senate that nobody thought anything new or interesting would be said in the discussion of it in the House. Those who heard the remarkable speech by Mr. Rice, of Massachusetts, in opposition to the bill this afternoon, however, have changed their minds. His line of argument was in many respects similar to that pursued by Mr. Hoar in the Senate, but gentlemen who listened to both speeches declare that of the two Mr. Rice's was the more cogent and convincing.

One very prominent Republican member of the House said this evening that he had made up his mind to vote for the bill before he heard Mr. Rice's arguments against it, but he now thought he would arguments against it, but he now thought he would vote against it. A number of Senators paid Mr. Rice the compliment of going over to the House and listening intently to his remarks, which also engaged the careful attention of members of that usually inattentive body.

The indications are that the bill will pass the House, although it may be amended in some particulars.

IRREGULARITIES AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME.

IBT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, March 15 .- About a year ago the Washington dispatches of THE TRIBUNE described a number of abuses existing in the management of the Soldiers' Home near this city, the regular appropriation by members of the Board of Commissioners of the best fruits and vegetables, supplies of milk, etc., the ques-

tionable investment of trust funds and the like.

These statements attracted the attention of members of the Senate and an investigation was ordered. Little was done, however, until this winter, when a sub-committee of the Military Committee began a careful inquiry. This has established the truth of the statements made in THE TRIBUNE a year ago and on several occasions sinc The members of the committee are reticent in regard to learned from them. General Sturges, the Governor of the Home, has made a report to the sub-committee de tailing a number of the existing abuses, though not all of those which THE TRIBUNE has on several occasions exposed. The Board of Commissioners consists of three persons: Surgeon-General Barnes, who is president, Commissary-General MacFeely, and Adjutant-General Drum. The two members of the Board whom General Sturges refers to in his report as receiving at their residences three times a week the choicest products Starges refers to in his report as receiving at their readicaces three times a week the choicest products of the vegetable and fruit gardens—and similar perquisites—are understood to be Surgeon-General Barnes and Commissary-General MacFeely; and the member whom General Sturges refers to as not belog in sympathy with "these proceedings," but in favor of an economical administration of the Home, is understood to be Adjutant-General Drum.

General Drum.
One result of the investigation will probably be the massage of a law requiring that a regular system of auditing the financial transactions of the Home be established.

THE SHIPHERD CORRESPONDENCE. [BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, March 15 .- Keen gray eyes, looking out of a frank, pleasant face that is framed in by very light auburn hair and a full beard of the same color, a stout, rather short figure weighing probably 200 year.

pounds, an agreeable voice, a manner at the same time alert and composed, these are the prominent features which mark the personality of Jacob R. Shipherd, who describes himself as a counselior-at-law and a resident of Queens County, New-York, and who occupied the witness chair in the room of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs this morning. Mr. Shipherd's chief claim to fame rests on the fact that he is president of the Peruvian Company, and upon the letters which he has written in that capacity to various officers and men in public life. For a man who professes to contro! hundreds of millions of property, and who thinks nothing of "assigning" hundreds of thousands of dollars at a time to any public man who strikes his fancy, Mr. Shipherd is tolerably modest and unassuming.

When Chairman Williams asked him this morning to

ness he has been engaged in during the last ten years, Mr. Shipherd, after some hesitation and a remark that he believed he had not done anyhing "to be ashamed of," politely suggested that the question did not appear to have any direct bearing on the Chili-Peru investigation. He was not pressed to give an answer. A gentleman who knows something of Mr. Shipherd's history supplied this void afterward by saving that he was formerly a clergyman, missionary and benevolent societies, an

missionary and benevolent societies, an editor, an insurance broker, a real estate operator and a banker. However recently Mr. Shipherd became a lawver, it is plain that as a master of legal fence he is at least the equal of any member of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He had not brought with him the copies of correspondence required by the subpena, because they were not ready, and from his answers it appeared that he had not used any extraordinary degree of dilicence in order to have them ready so that he could bring them at this time.

Mr. Shipherd, with consummate coolness, began to catechise the committee as to the scope of the meaning of the subpena sent him. It ordered him to bring copies of all letters written to or received by him from "officials of the United States," "Conceivably," remarked the urbane witness, "this language might be construed as meaning my correspondence with members of Congress, as well as with officers of the State Department, in relation to the matter which is the subject of investigation."

relation to the matter which is the subject of investigation."

Mr. Rice, of the committee, said that it was so intended, and inmediately, on the suggestion of Mr. Kasson,
the room was cleared for an executive session, only the
clerk, official stenographer and Mr. and Mrs. Shipherd
being allowed to remain with the committee. The secret
session lasted more than an hour, and afterward the correspondents were furnished with the following;
"On motion of Mr. Kasson it was ordered that the witness produce copies of all correspondence addressed to
any United States Minister or officer of the State Department touching the subject matter of this inquiry, all
letters addressed to witness by such officers and relating
thereto, all correspondence passing between the aforesaid which throws light on the subject matter of this correspondence: also ad other correspondence and copies
of correspondence which tend to show any relation of
such officers to the business transactions referred to in
the resolution."

This order confines the investigation strictly within

such officers to the business transactions referred to it the resolution."

This order confines the investigation strictly within the limits of the resolution of the House under which the committee is acting. Mr. Shipherd promised to have copies of the correspondence rendy by Saturday, and the committee adjourned till that time.

One remark let drop by Mr. Shipherd was significant. He said he had examined the printed copy abstracts of the "mi-sing letters" and, according to his recollection of the contents of those letters, the published abstracts are correct. It will be remembered that these abstracts showed the latters to be as harmless as a speech about the Marine Band, and entirely madequate to the fuss and mystery made over them in some sensational newspapers.

A COSTLY REVENUE BILL.

WASHINGTON, March 15 .- The sub-committee of the House Committee on Ways and Means in charge of changes in internal revenue laws, of which Messrs. Dunnell, Russell, Errett, Randall and Carlisle are members, to-day agreeds to report a bill to the full committee to-morrow, which will recommend the following internal revenue reductions; On whiskey, from 90 to 50 cents per gallon; on malt liquors, from 192-2 to 60 cents per barrel; on tobacco, snuff, etc., from 16 to 10 cents per pound; on clears, from 86 to \$4 per thousand; on clearettes, from \$1 75 to 60 cents per thousand; also a reduction of about 50 per cent of the special taxes now imposed upon dealers in the articles named. The sub-committee's report will also recommend the repeal of the laws which at present impose taxes on capital and deposits, bank checks, matches, proprietary stamps on melicines, cosmeties, perfumery, etc. It is estimated that the proposed reductions based upon the internal revenue collections of last year will amount in round numbers to about \$68,000,000. 9212 to 60 cents per barrel; on tobacco, snuff, etc., from

WASHINGTON NOTES.

Washington, Wedueslay, March 15, 1882. The President has recognized Joseph Laplace as Con-ular Agent of France at Richmond, Va. The Controller of the Currency has authorized the Fergus Falls National Bank, of Minnesota, to begin business with a capital of \$50,000.

Colonel William A. Cook, one of the counsel in the Star Route suits, has written a long letter to the Attorney-General resigning from the cases.

At the close of Mrsiness to-day United States bonds had been redeemed at the Treasury as follows: Under the 105th e.ll, \$19,679,950; under the 106th call, \$18,145,550; under the 107th call, \$8,759,900. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Price is preparing a re-

port to the Secretary of the Interior recommending the oval of the Apuche, Navajoe and Mescalero Indians New-Mexico to a suitable reservation in the Indian itory.

The President to-day ordered a further respite of thirty days in the case of Edward M. Kelley, who was sen-tenced to be hanged at Santa Fe, New-Mexico, on Feb-ruacy 17, and who was then granted a respite to March 17.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee appointed by the cancus yesterday held a meeting to-day and elected Senator H. G. Davis Chairman. No other business will be undertaken until the House Caucus

ousiness will be undertaken until the House Caucus Committee is organized.

The Chief of the Bureau of Statistics reports that the otal values of exports of provisions and tallow for the four months ended February 28, 1882, were \$40,624,326, and for the four months ended February 28, 1881, and for the four months ended February 28, 1881, 8821, 167,823. The total values of the exports of dairy products for the ten months ended Pebruary 28, 1882, were \$16,912,728, and for the like period in the preceding year, \$22,219,062.

The amendments reported to-day from the Senate Committee on Railroads to the bill granting a right-of-way through the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations to the St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company require St. Louis and San Francisco Railway Company require that company, within ninety days from the passage of the act, to accept its provisions, and, within one year from the date of acceptance, to complete the road. If it fails to construct the road within the time specified then all its rights, under the act, are to cease and the Chicago, Texas and Mexican Central Railroad Company is to succeed to all the rights and privileges.

ceed to all the rights and privileges.

A Senator who called upon the President yesterday to recommend a man for appointment as Government Printer was informed that the President had not only Printer was informed that the President had not only not promised the place to Mr. Rounds, of Illinois, as that gentleman's friends persistently assert, but had not yet begin to consider the question seriously. There are now four candidates, namely: A. F. Childs, the present Chief Clerk of the Government Printing Office: S. H. Rounds, Mr. Oyster, late foremen in charge of The Congressional Record, and General Walker, of Virginia. General Walker is General Mahone's cardidate.

TELEGRAPHIC NOTES.

A NATIONAL PROHIBITION CONVENTION.
BOSTON, March 15.—G. T. Steward, chairman of
the National Prohibition Committee, has issued a call for a
dational Convention at Chicago on August 29.

SHORT BANK BILLS IN CRECULATION.
TROY, March 15.—Bank bills, ranging in denomination from \$2 to \$20, have been accepted at banks in this city, which, it is discovered are an inch short of the regular

REFUSING TO COMMUTE A DEATH SENTENCE,
HARTFORD, March 15.—The Connecticut House of
HARTFORD, March 15.—The Connecticut House
HARTFORD, March 15.

HAZAEL OFF FOR ENGLAND,
PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—George Hazael, the
pedestrian was among the passengers on the Indiana, which
sailed for Liverboot his norming. He boarded the vessel
shortly before she cast of.

GRADUATES IN MEDICINE AND DENISTRY,
PHILADELPHIA, March 15.—At the commencement
the University of Penneylvania's Medical Department at
the Academy of Music to-day, there were 122 graduates in
medicine and 41 in dominity.

SPINNERS STILL ON STRIKE.

LAWRENCE, Mass., March 15.—The spinners are utill on strike. About 153 spoolers and warpers are thrown ut of employment temporarily, making the total number at resent unemployed about 350.

one of chipping and a series of the present unemployed about 350.

THE LAUNCH OF A STEAMER.

WIMINGTON, March 15.—The Harlan and Hollingsworth Company this morning launched the steamer avaion, built for the Maryland Steamboat Company, to run between Baltimore and the Wicomico River.

HARVARD STUDENTS DISSATISFIED.

BOSTON, March 15.—The number of students dining at Memorian Hall, Harvard College, has failen off so largely, owing to dissatisfaction with the management, that unless the number can be increased to 425 by March 72, the dump hall will be closed.

dining hall will be closed.

SUING A MERCHANT FOR DAMAGES.

SCRANTON, Penn., March 15.—The Court to-day awarded to Professor J. E. Hawker, superintendent of schools of this city, \$4,000 damages in the sait brought by him against Morris Goldhamith, a merchant of this city for signing a libellous petition to the State Superintendent of Schools.

against Morris Goldsmith, a merchant of use city, for signing a libelious petition to the State Superintendent of Schools.

THREATENED STRIKE IN STOVE FOUNDRIES.
TROY, March 15.—The stove manufacturers have declined to accede to the demand for an increase of wages made by the Equatizing Committee of the Models of Value. It is feared that a long strike will follow among the thousands of men employed in the slove foundries here.

THE FINANCES OF PENNSYLVANIA.
HARRISBURG, March 15.—The State Treasurer's statement for February, published to day, shows that on March 1 there were in the general fund \$1,766,662 70, and applicable to current expenses \$1,231,662 30. The large balance in the general fund has accrued from the fact that the large corporations have generally paid their taxes for the year.

ATTACKING H. O. THOMPSON.

HIS DEPARTMENT TO BE INVESTIGATED.

TAMMANY AVENGING ITSELF UPON ITS OPPONENTS. THE COUNTY DEMOCRACY-A COUNTER-THRUST AT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT-ACTION OF THE STATE SENATE.

ROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.] ALBANY, March 15.—The Tammany Senators -day substantially began that investigation of the departments of New-York City controlled by their oppo begin since the Legislature met. Senator Boyd was put forward by Tammany to begin the attack. He pre ented to the Senate the following resolution in regard

to the Department of Public Works, which may be considered the backbone of the County Democracy:

Whereas, The official report of the transactions of the Department of Public Works of the City of New-York, under the management of Commissioner Hubert. O. Thompson, during the year 1881, shows an increase in the expenditures of said Department over those of the year 1880 of 8620,065-21, and over those of the year 1879 of \$1,312,759-28; and.

Whereas, It is charged that such increase of expenditures is due to gross neglect of duty and violation of law on the part of said Commissioner; and,

Whereas, The accounts of said Department, published in the quarterly reports of the Controller of the City of New-York for the year 1881, show apparent evasions and violations of law and charter provisions on the part of said Commissioner,

Recologic, That it be referred to the Committee on Cities of the Senate, with power to examine into the management of the Department of Public Works of the City of New York under said Hubert O. Thompson to the end that any and all abuses and irregularities that are found to exist may be specific corrected.

Senator Fitzgerald, one of the County Democracy members, instantly sought to parry the attack by making

members, instantly sought to parry the attack by making a counter one upon a Tammany stronghold in New-York, the Police Department. He offered the following pre-

amble and resolution as an amendment: Whereas, it is alloged that corruption provails in the Police Department of the tity of New-York to a fearful extent; that applicants or appointment on the force and for promotion therein are subjected to an infamous tax,upon the payment of which, and not upon merit, the said appointments or promotions are made to depend:

shekinall; and,

Whereas, It is further alleged that the amounts so
raised find their way into the pockets of high police
efficials, and are used in various ways to demoralize the

force; therefore,

Resolved, That the Committee on Cities of the Senate
be instructed to investigate the truth or falsity of the
nilegations, with power to send for persons and papers. A debate followed on the resolution and amendment, which hasted for two hours. Separtor Boyd stated that by the charter of New-York all work for that city which rould cost over \$1,000 must be done by contract. In apparent disobedience to this law, or at least to its spirit. Mr. Thompson, the Commissioner of Public Works, had made a great many contracts, putting them just below the \$1,000 limit. This gave him the power to confer them upon anyone, without advertising for proposals for the work. An inspection of the books of the Department of Public Works showed that some men were singularly fortunate in obtaining these contracts below \$1,000 in amount. One man especially, R. A. Cunningham, seemed to be especially dexterous in putting a bid for a contract just below the \$1,000 limit. He seemed to have few com petitors. So common were these contracts that "there must have been some understanding between this man and the Commissioner of Public Works."

Senator Boyd then read a statement compiled from the books of the Department of Public Works, showing that during the year 1881 Cunningham was given forty-seven such contracts by Mr. Thompson. The contracts were for all descriptions of work, for restoring and repairing, for sewers and for repaying. During the months of July. August, September. October, November and December, this contractor, Cunningham, the speaker said, received an average of about \$3,000 a nonth. Senator Boyd, commenting upon this fact, said "This seems to be arranged for: the special contracts for restoring and repaving in July, August and September aggregating respectively \$2,976 50, \$2,985 50 and \$2,938. Another noticeable feature of all these contracts is that the lowest is only \$57 less than the prohibited amount of \$1,000, while the highest is precisely within \$1 of the mount for which sealed proposals after advertisements were required." In order to show the almost invariable to the \$1,000 limit, Senator Boyd approach to the \$1,000 limit, Senator Boyd read the following transcript from the books of the Department of Public Works, all Cunningham's contracts: February 28, 8923-25; March 24, 8008-25; April 15, 8760-50; April 29, 8864; April 29, 8969; May 19, 89949; May 19, 8994-30, May 19, 8994-30, June 13, 8978-25; June 13, 8973-25; June 13, 8973-25; June 30, 8908-25; June 30, 8909; total, \$13,286-50.

In addition to these sums, the speaker stated, there was paid out of the a me contract of the contract or received the following sums from the Department in 1881:

he following scattering from Jan. to June. \$13,286 50
From specialed contracts from July to Dec. 9,498 65
From smaller contracts from Jan. to June. 12,700 80
From smaller contracts from July to Dec. 16,742 51
From special fund for restoring and recairing 36,367 50

Grand total..... Grand total.

Senator Boyd concluded his speech by saying: "There was so much favorition shown in the disposal of "hese contracts that the people are justified in asking that some investigation be had. So far as the Police Comsoners are concerned I would say that no definite charges are made against them by Senator Fitzgerald in his amendment to my resolution. We have stated facts in relation to Mr. Thompson; facts taken from his own

somers are endeerned I would say that no definite charges are made against them by Seandor Flizgerald risk in samentiment to my resolution. We have stated facts in the control of the commissioners were spotless. He desired his amendment to be passed.

Senator Fitzgerald said that he was not confident that the Police Commissioners were spotless. He desired his amendment to be passed.

Senator Lord—Were not these charges against the Police Commissioners investigated by the Mayor I Senator Graty—Yes; they were. The Mayor raked the street corners for charges of all kinds. But we make definite charges. The charter says that all stans expended over \$1,000 earli be expended after an advertisement of the contract. The Legislature supposed this would secure competition. It was not intended to justify any snea expenditure as you find here to-day. But you find \$75,000 given one by Mr. Thompson without a line of an exercisement. The officered up into several contracts the law scient: \$970, \$983, \$930, \$935. If these had not been civiled up into several contracts the law is allegat that correspond their advertisement. Where is it allegat that correspond their advertisement. Where is it allegat that or may be a supplied their advertisement. Where is it allegat that or may be a supplied to the charge and by the Press! No. Can you do not young for an an existing may be easily several contracts the law scholul spread upon our journ of an an existing part we should spread upon our journ of frady closed his speech with an attack on My was of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My was of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My was of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My was of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My was of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My was of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My was of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My was of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My of Grady closed his speech with an attack on My of Grady closed his speech with an attac

WHAT MR. THOMPSON SAYS.

Hubert O. Thompson, Commissioner of Pub-te Works, said last evening to a reporter of The Trib-UNE: "There is nothing connected with the Depart-ment of Public Works which I am alraid to have investigated. I only ask that the committee shall be a fair one, divested of politics, and that everything connected with the Department be examined. I see that I am charged with having given out special contracts where the amount is less than \$1,000. The law gives me that

power to use at discretion. I have done so, but only where the work had to be done carefully, and therefore could be done better in this way than if thrown open to public better. ublic letting."
"It is charged that that the expenditures of the De

millise thing."

"It is charged that that the expenditures of the Department have been greater under your administration than under Commissioner Campbell."

"That is true; but, on the other hand, there has been more work done. The Common Council cau, by ordinance, direct that certain work shall be done, streets opened, sewered and paved, etc., and this must be done. Each succeding year the city is growing, the need of paved streets is greater, and the sewers and water pipes are laid over a greater extent of territory. Yet the complaints continue that the Department does not pay sufficient attention to the wants of the people in the annexed district. For the last two years we have been engaged in the work of bringing an additional supply of water to the city from the Bronx River. I have explained to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment each year what are the needs of the Department for the succeeding year, and the Board has appropriated such amounts as in its judgment were required by the various bureaus of the Department, and for specific and general purposes. And their amounts have not been exceeded. purposes. And their amounts have not been exceeded As I said before, I am not afraid of an honest investig:

GENERAL FOREIGN NEWS.

RUSSIA, GERMANY AND AUSTRIA.

LONDON, March 15 .- The statement of The Daily News's correspondent at Berlin that General Skobeleff has been arrested and confined in the fortress at Wilna, is contradicted.

The Emperor William was deeply affected by receiving an autograph letter from the Czar on the anniversary of the assassination of his father, Alexander II.

The Berlin correspondent of The St. James's Gazette says the Russian representatives at the German Court have been instructed to tender to the respective Governments to which they are accredited monstrative assurances that the Czar is firmly re olved to maintain amicable relations with Ger-

many.
The Cross Gazette says the Skobeleft affair is regarded as settled, but great watchfulness is required. Prince Bismarck has long since arranged European combinations for every eventuality.

A NEW MINISTRY FORMED AT ATHENS. onstituted as follows:

one tluted as toliows:

M. Tricompis—President of the Council and Minister of
Foreign A flutes, and temporarily Minister of the Interior.

M. Callizms—Minister of Finance.

M. Lombardos—Minister of Public Instruction

M. Rallis—Minister of Justice.

M. Karalshukis—Minister of War.

M. Roufos—Minister of Marine.

FEARS OF AN UPRISING IN CORK. LONDON, March 15 .- A dispatch to the Central News Association from Cork, says: "The author ities are apprehensive of something in the nature of an uprising on St. Patrick's day. An extraordinary number of cipher telegrams have recently passed through the Cork Post Office. The police have torn down placards

bearing the words: 'Be ready on St. Patrick's day,'" In the House of Commons yesterday a debate on the second reading of Mr. Findlater's bill to ease the block of business in the Land Couris by instituting a system of arbitration by valuation was adjourned by a vote, 131 to 86, on the suggestion of Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Forster, who considered that the matter would not be urgent for a few months, as the present rate of progress is somewhat more encouraging.

AMERICAN PORK IN FRANCE.

Paris, March 15 .- The Committee of the

Chamber of Deputies on the bill abrogating the prohibition against the importation of American salted pork

has adopted a report in favor of the bill, with the proviso that the system for the inspection of the pork upon its importation shall be reestablished. The report will be submitted to the Chamber to-morrow. A NEW SONG BY TENNYSON. London, March 15 .- Alfred Tennyson, the

poet laureate, has published a patriotic song which will be sung in London to-night, and throughout the colonies on the anniversary of Her Majesty's birthday. FOREIGN NOTES. London, Wednesday, March 15, 1882.

The Gazette announces that the Queen has directed the issue of letterst-patent formally annexing Morant Cays and Pedro Cays to Jamidea. A dispatch from Constantinople says: "Russian in trigues in Afghanistan are again to the fore. Ayout

Khan is in constant communication with the Muscovite authorities." M. Leon Say, French Minister of Finance, has sub mitted to the Chambers a demand for a grant of 8,000,000 frames to defray the expenses of the expedi-tion to Tunis for the first quarter of 1882.

The day for the hanging of Dr. Lamson has been fixed for April 4. It is stated that the Treasury authorities have received information leading them strongly to suspect that Dr. Lamson is guilty of other serious crimes. The American student Hare, who was given into custody recently by the landlord of a hotel here for obtaining food without paying therefor, has been acquitted of the charge of petty fraud, but he was ordered to be de-tained as a person of unsound mind.

St. John, N. B., March 15,-At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the suspended bank of Prince Edward Island, held at Charlottetown yesterday, the directors reported that \$87,000 paid in on account of bills receivable, \$168,000 and been paid in on accounts and \$6,000 on mortgages and judgments, making a total of \$261,000; also that securities, real estate, shipping stock, etc., had been taken to secure in whole or in part \$300,000 more.

THE STEAMER CITY OF BERLIN.

Boston, March 15 .- The Advertiser will say in the moraing: "A rumor is current in steamship cir-cles that instructions have been received by cable, the agent of the Cunard Line in this city, not to bond the steamer City of Berlin on account of any claims of salvage incidental to her rescue by the Samaria, of the Cunard Line, and that all claims will be satisfactorily adjusted in Liverpool by the agents there of the Cunard and Inman Lines respectively."

THE RECEIVERSHIP INVESTIGATION.

ALBANY, March 15 .- The Senate Insurance Committee intended to hold a session this afternoon and continue the examination of Henry R. Pierson, receiver, etc., but owing to the absence of Senator Titus, a mem-ber of the Committee, caused by illness in his family, the Committee decided to adjourn subject to the call of the

ROBERT MARTIN TO HANG.

TRENTON, N. J., March 15 .- The Court of Pardons met to-day and reconsidered the case of Robert Martin, the murderer, convicted at Newark of killinghis wife and babe. The consideration resulted in a refusal to commute the sentence. Martin was resplied by the Governor until March 30, when he will be hanged.

FAILURE OF A BANKING FIRM.

PITTSBURG, March 15.-The banking firm of Ralston, McQuaide & Co., of Fairview, Penn., suspended to-day. The limititles are between \$200,000 and \$300,000. The assets are not known,

FRAGMENTS OF WESTERN NEWS.

SUFFOCATED IN A WELL.
FERGUS FALLS, Minn., March 15.—Lars A.
Stuernd and Ferger Sonnon were suffocated by gas in a
well yesterday. Both leave families. One descended to
ssistific other.

assistine other.

A. RAILWAY DEPOT ROBBED.

JOLIET, Ill., March 15.—Burghars this morning broke open the safe of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad depot in this place and secured

DEATH FROM A STEAMBOAT EXPLOSION.
CINCINNATI, March 15.—A dispatch to The CINCINNATI, March 15.—A dispatch to The times Star says that the steam tow-boat Eina exploded her bodiers this morning in the Great Kanawha River, three miles above Point Pleasant. Duncau Anderson, of Pomeroy, was killed, and Captain Henderson and several others were severely injured. The steamer took fire and burned to the water's edge.

THE NEWCOMB BUCHANAN COMPANY'S FAILURE.

LOUISVILLE March 15.—At a magnification.

THE NEWCOMB BUCHANAN COMPANYS FAILURS.

LOUISVILLE, March 15.—At a meeting of the creditors of the Newcomb Enchanan Company a statement was submitted which showed the company's Habilities to be \$1,640,000 and the assets \$2,335,000. G. C. Buchanan showed a surplus of private assets over habilities of \$375,000. Andrew Buchanan showed a surplus of \$25,000. The propositions to the twogclasses of creditors were then submitted separately and unanimously secretical.

CRIMES AND CASUALTIES-BY TELEGRAPH.

ACCIDENT ON THE TENNESSEE.

NEW-ORLEANS, March 15.—By an accident on the nited States steamer Tennessee, a German, Nicholas Johnon, was drowned.

SUICIDE OF A PRISONER.

SUICIDE OF A PRISONER.

BUFFALO, March 15.—H. W. Dwyer, age fortynine, was arrested to-day for stealing a cake of sugar, and
was locked up. Shortly afterward it was discovered that he
had cut his throat, inflicting a fatal wound.

IMPORTANT INTERVIEWS WITH VANDER-BILT, GREEN AND OTHERS.

MR. VANDERBILT ON THE CONDITION OF THE RAIL ROADS-A GOOD TRAFFIC NOW WITH EXCEL-LENT PROSPECTS-RESULTS OF THE SETTLEMENT OF THE RAILROAD WAR-DR. GREEN'S VIEWS CONCERNING THE TELEGRAPH LINES-RUSSELL SAGE ON RAILROAD BUILDING.

Mr. Vanderbilt, in a long talk with a TRIBUNE

eporter yesterday, discussed very fully the relations of the railroads, the condition of their traffic, and the reasons for confidence in their future. He expressed great faith that the companies had an era of prosperity before them, as their differences had been adjusted, and spoke contemptuously of the men who had been trying to alarm the public as to the soundness of the best investment properties. The question of legislation affecting the railroads, the great reduction in the cost of transportation in recent years, and the proper price for labor were among the other subjects considered by Mr. Vanderbilt. In a conversation with Dr. Norvin Green, the president of the Western Union Telegraph Company reviewed the immense growth of the telegraph business, and presented facts and figures to show that a still greater and still more profitable business may be expected hereafter. Russell Sage expressed the belief that the check to railway building was only temporary, and that the present valuations of railway property were too low. A. L. Hopkins, who has recently returned from the West, found the farmers prosperous and hopeful, and noted a great improvement in the traffic of the transportation lines.

VIEWS OF MR. VANDERBILT.

REASONS FOR FAITH IN RAILWAYS-BENT ON PROTECTING HIS PROPERTY.

William H. Vanderbilt was called upon at his residence last evening by a TRIBUNE reporter, who desired to get his views as to the relations of the railroads, the settlement of the war between them, the condition of their business now, and the outlook for traffic in the future. Mr. Vanderbiit was found in a genial and communicative mood and talked freely on these subjects. He was glancing over the letters received by the afternoon mails when the reporter was admitted to his library. In reply to an inquiry about the present condition of railroad matters, he said: "The railroad war on both passenger and freight

rates is practically settled. The first step, perhaps, was the hardest to take, but after that everything appears to have worked smoothly enough. The railroad companies are acting now in a spirit of harmony and mutual concession that renders the carrying out of the present agreement perfectly easy. They have made a pooling arrangement for five years, and I suppose all the minor details necessary to the fulfilment of that agreement have been perfected. Yes, yes, there is no longer any railroad war; it has ended. It was about time that a stop was put to it. For nearly a year the railroads were engaged in a bitter conflict, and long ago it was evident that the companies themselves could not settle all the questions involved in the struggle. It became absolutely indispensable that the bustness men of the country should act as arbiters between the railroads, whose officers were drifting daily further apart. That has been done, and from the business men, who are fully alive to the magnitude of the railroad questions and to the influences which will flow from the decision of them, we may expect the fullest discussion and the most correct judgment. As I said just now, it was quite time that the railroad war was brought to a close. The war has taught us all a good lesson; at any rate, I have learned lessons from it that I shall never forget. I have no doubt the officers of all the railroads are wiser than they were a year ago. The war has cost a great deal of money, and the only practical advantage that has been gained is the knowledge how cheaply the work of transportation can be done. That is a matter that has been clearly proved by the contest, and I think most railroad men have been surprised at the result. But I tell you it was due to stockholders and to everybody that the war should be stopped; we ail recognized the insanity of prolong-

"Will the peace be lasting?" the reporter asked. "Oh, undoubtedly it will be maintained for several years. The agreement is made for five years, and it is hardly probable that anything will happen to break it."

THE DECISION CONCERNING DIFFERENTIAL RATES. "The question of differential rates has not been decided, and the Advisory Commission has no power," the reporter suggested."

"That is very true," Mr. Vanderbilt replied; "but anticipate a decision that will be so eminently just that the railroads will accept it without a word of dissent. You see, this matter of differential rates has become a national question of vast importance, It has passed out of the hands of railroad men, partly because of its very importance, but mainly because railroad men showed themselves incompetent to handle it. Their views were narrow and their opinions were warped by personal feelings and official interests. Because they were unable to determine the question, I suggested some months ago that it should be left to arbitration, and that the business men of the country should give it a thorough examination and discussion. From that suggestion, I believe, has sprung the Advisory Commission which is now considering the subject. Certainly the men who constitute that Commission are men of ability, of fairness and of practical wisdom. No better men probably could have been selected, and the result of their deliberations will be accepted by the world as the justest conclusion that could be reached. I presume the officers of the railroad companies will accept it as the basis of a settlement. Certainly I shall be willing to do so if it will give my roads a chance to live. We have been fighting New-York's battle for a long time and it has cost us millions of money. We cannot fight the battle unaided and alone. The business men of New-York have a deep interest in the contest and should do their utmost to protect the commercial supremacy of the city. The Central Railroad is preeminently a New-York institution and deserves the support of its business men. But for all that, we have to consider the interests of other places on our line. As a matter of business, a man at Rochester is of just as much consequence to the road as a man at Syracuse, and one at Albany as

prosperity of the roads themselves," ENCOURAGING PROSPECTS FOR THE ROADS. "What is the present condition of railroad busi-

another at Buffalo. We want every place on the

line of our roads to prosper, for in its success lies the

ness ?" "I consider the outlook to be extremely favorable. We are doing a good business; in fact, the traffic is rather larger in volume than it has been before, but the low rates of freights have prevented our reaping the full advantage of the increased business, I understand that the prospects of large crops this season are exceedingly brilliant, and altogether it is my opinion that the railroads will earn more money this year than last. The Lake Shore road carned its 8 per cent dividends last year in spite of all the statements to the contrary, and I have no doubt that the business will be sufficient for the rest of the present year to enable it to con-CHARGED WITH FORGERY.

PHCENIXVILLE, Penn., March 15.—Herbert Pennypacker, of this place, was arrested this morning and placed under \$7,000 ball, on the charge of offering a forged check at the National Bank of Phcenixville. The check was fer \$7,500.

In the rest of the present year to enable it to continue 8 per cent dividends. The speculation in grain, as you are aware, hurt the railroads considerably, as you are aware, hurt the railroads considerably, as you are aware, hurt the railroads considerably, as you are aware, hurt the railroads considerably.